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CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF INDIANA

By
ALECK DAVIS

Illustrations by GEORGE B. SWEITZER



1816—1916



CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF INDIANA

By
ALECK DAVIS *pseud*

Illustrations by GEORGE B. SWEITZER

Kitch, John Walter



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By JOHN W. KITCH

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no. 1.

*This volume is Respectfully
Dedicated to the Order of
Hoosieroons and its First Grand
High Potentate.*

*May they suffer long, silently
and patiently.*

THE AUTHOR.

INTRODUCTION

A half century ago, there was a crying need for Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup among the children of Indiana. To day, those of the children of '66, who have survived the taking ways of malaria, the White Caps and the automobile, are engaged in the mad rush for wealth and too busy to spend weeks and months poring over, and wading through, the long drawn-out detailed, dry facts of history as heretofore doled out to Indiana readers; hence this little volume. It is designed to take the place of Mother Winslow's concoction as the crying need of a busy public.

This work is not intended to belittle the efforts of such historians as have gone before. They did the best they could. Many of them did not have the advantage of an acquaintance with the author of this work.

THE CENTENNIAL HISTORY is designed to be a plain, truthful, delineation of important events in Indiana. It is arranged so that the shop-keeper, in his leisure moments between sales of shirtwaists and prunes, and the farmer, during the noon hours and on rainy afternoons, may glean the history of their native state, free from the frills, embellishments and biased opinions of the larger chronicles. All such superfluous matters as Indian massacres, detailed political battles and biographies of big guns have been eliminated. Nobody's picture, or his own recollection of the great things he has accomplished, is published herein at so much per.

This work is intended to secure to the author, fame and riches, but no space has been

farmed out to patent medicine firms or to the author's competitors in the realm of fame.

The thanks of the author are due to those who have assisted and made possible the completion of this work. Special mention is due to Mr. Andrew Carnegie, who built the library where the stuff was read that was put into this history. Christopher Columbus also has the thanks of the author for so kindly discovering this country when he did and thus making possible a history of this sort. Last, but by no means least, Miranda and the Twins should not be forgotten. It was their faithful attendance at the shirt factory that kept up the family larder while this work was being compiled on the back stoop, and it was they who procured the scissors from the factory with which many of the beautiful gems were written.

Aleck Davis.

Hobbs town, Indiana, July 4, 1916.



Centennial History

of

Indiana

When the dreamer, Columbus, landed on the little tropical isle of San Salvador and discovered a new world, he had but little idea of the wonderful find he had made. He did not know that he was opening to the use of civilization, a vast new Earth with resources never thought of by the wildest of Humanity's visionaries.

Columbus died and generations of other explorers followed him and passed away, and yet the half had not been discovered.

The rich gold lands of Mexico were exploited, and daring adventurers penetrated the deadly swamps of the southern part of our country in search of the fascinating yellow metal. But there lay untouched, in the very

center of this great empire, a land of wealth, capable of yielding many times the treasure to be found in the alluring lands of the south.

For over two hundred years after Columbus had startled the world and gone almost friendless and penniless to his grave, the untutored savage contended with the buffalo of the prairies and the wilder and more ferocious beasts of the dense forests for an existence, along the valleys of the St. Joe, the White, the Wabash and the Ohio rivers.

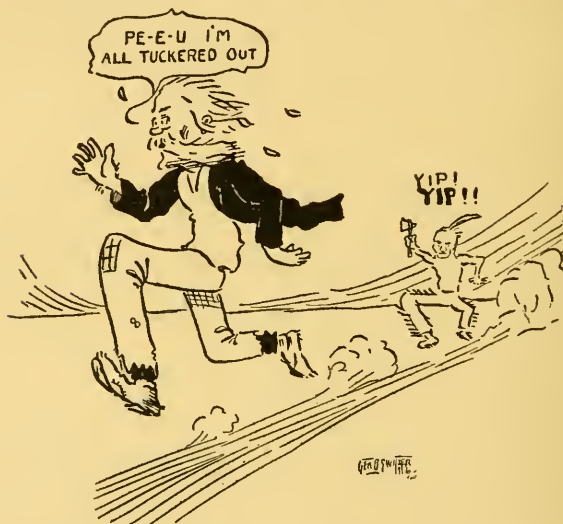
At first Spain claimed all this vast, unknown region, and exercised a sort of general rule over it because of her early discoveries. Then France sent her explorers and missionaries into the Mississippi Valley and began to establish trading posts and missions at various points.

However, the territory comprised in the state of Indiana was still in its primeval condition at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War, with the exception of that occupied by a small band of hardy French pioneers who had a settlement on the east bank of the Wabash River about fifty-five miles above its junction with the Ohio. This point had been a trading post since early in the 18th Century, but for many years, it could scarcely be called a settlement. Only a few daring spirits, devotees of the church, surrounded by savages more to be feared than wild beasts, cultivated small patches of grain, hunted for game in the forests and lived almost like Indians themselves.

The savages of the Indiana of that day were different from those to be found in the state now.

They were not so crude in their methods.

When the savages of the ante-Revolutionary period took up the delicate task of carving up a citizen, they did it "neatly and with dispatch." There was no bungling, no hesitation, no negotiating, no criminations or recrimina-



"Took up the delicate task of carving up a citizen."

tions. They simply removed the place where the bald spot ought to be and traveled on to greener pastures. Sometimes a mere minority would control a whole convention by means of the unit rule and the scalping knife.

The Pottawatamies and the Shawnees were among the most energetic of the Hoosier inhabitants of that day. They took the principal part in the entertainment of General Harmer, Arthur St. Clair and Mad Anthony Wayne in the vicinity of where Ft. Wayne

now stands. It is possible that we would have had Ed. Hoffman and the big Allen County court house long before we did, if it had not been for the reckless dissipation of these red-skinned gentlemen.

At the close of the last French and Indian War, the territory of Indiana became a part of the British possessions in America. In 1778 and 1779, one George Rogers Clark, with an imposing army of some sixty or more men, over-ran the states of Indiana and Illinois and captured the principal cities of Vincennes and Kaskaskia. The sum of Twelve Hundred Pounds Sterling was donated to Clark as expense money for this expedition. It has been the consensus of opinion that Clark worked too cheaply. There are some slanderous tongues that have even gone so far as to intimate it has cost Bill Cullop more than that sum to capture Vincennes alone in recent years.

It was an important work that Clark did. He made us citizens of the United States instead of mere British subjects. If it had not been for him, George Ade and Meredith Nicholson would probably be digging in the trenches at Verdun today instead of trying to monopolize the Centennial literature in this great commonwealth, and Tom Marshall would doubtless be paying tribute to one, J. Bull instead of throwing the one without a christian name and talking about a preparedness that makes for peace.

We have honored Clark by naming a whole county after him and putting a penitentiary there where our youth may be educated.



Gen. Anthony Wayne



Tecumseh

In 1787, Northwest Territory was organized and Arthur St. Clair was appointed governor. What is now Indiana was included in this territory. Thirteen years later Indiana territory was organized and William Henry Harrison made first governor. Vincennes was the capital. It wasn't much of a place then. The depot hotel had not even been built at that time, but the streets were just as muddy as they are now. It was here in 1811, that Tecumseh made his famous Henry Warrum Speech that caused the Battle of Tippecanoe. This was the only real sure-enough battle ever fought in the state. Tecumseh was badly defeated in the Battle of Tippecanoe, but the Indians over in the Tenth District have since re-captured the territory and it is difficult for a white man to accomplish anything there even now.

Indiana was admitted to the Union as a state in 1816. By that time it had a considerable number of people scattered over its southern portion engaged in the pursuit of raising corn, wheat, potatoes, hoes, tobacco and other useful cereals. The capital of the territory had been removed to Corydon in Harrison County and here a state house had been built out of native stone, forty feet square and two stories high. The builder was a mason by the name of Dennis Pennington who was afterwards one of the state's first legislators. A state constitution was drafted during the summer, most of the sessions being held under an elm tree a couple of blocks away from the state house. This tree has been preserved and is known as "The Constitutional Elm." It isn't much of a tree. There is much better saw timber in many less noted parts of the state.

When Indiana became a state, Jonathan Jennings became its first governor and served six years. He had no whiskers. Jennings County is named after him, but he couldn't help it and it is understood that he did not belong to either the Vernon or the North Vernon faction in the court house fight.

Corydon, Indiana's first state capital, is a rather neat little village nestling down among the stony hills of Harrison County. The hotel landlord also acts as clerk, steward, table waiter and chambermaid. He is a corpulent, good-natured old fellow who dotes on fried chicken, and prides himself on the quality of this provender he dishes out to his guests. The electric lights go out at midnight, but there is a kerosene lamp in each room for the accommodation of the stranger and wayfaring man who may perchance keep late hours.

A railroad extends from Corydon to Corydon Junction, a distance of seven miles as the crow flies. But there are no flies on the railroad. A disciple of Theodore Roosevelt acts as superintendent, general manager, operator, ticket agent and conductor of the train. The engine on the train has a whistle with a sweet and mellifluous voice that reverberates among the hills and vales and scrub oaks of Harrison County as it announces the passage of the train to this historic spot.

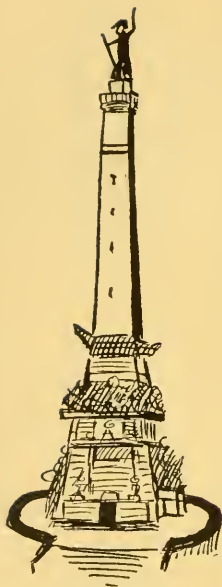
About a mile and a half out of Corydon, on the Louisville Pike, stands the old stone tavern where Governor Jennings and the legislators ate their meals and dreamed their dreams of future greatness. A private family lives in it now. Just back of the building, where the rain barrel stood, in which the statesmen were wont



State House at Corydon.



"He is a corpulent good-natured old fellow."



The Monument

to lave their honest toil-marked faces, the clothesline is fastened and there, back and forth, the summer breezes whip the newly-washed calicoes and gingham of the farmer and his family. The cock roaches creep in and out of crevices that once resounded to the heated debates and quieter intrigues of the General Assembly of the great state, as only intrigues and debates can resound.

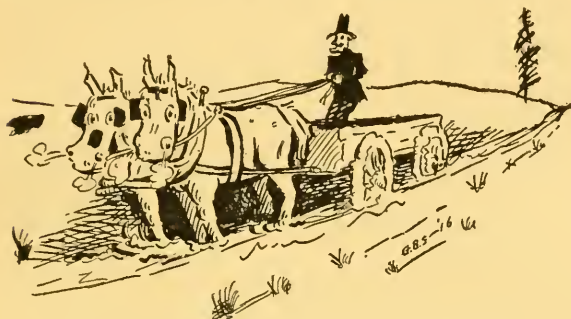
Indianapolis was laid out in 1820. It has been thought dead several times since but they didn't lay it out on those occasions. In 1825, the state capital was removed from Corydon, and Indianapolis, has since that time, shared with French Lick, the seat of government. The state treasury was moved by ox-team over the mellow highways of Southern Indiana, and was a slow and tedious process. Samuel Merrill was the state treasurer at that time. He was the grandfather of Congressman Merrill Moores of Indianapolis.

Indianapolis is situated near the center of the state, on the White River and around the soldiers' monument which stands just across the street from Bill English's old hotel. The principal places of interest in Indianapolis are the Union Depot and Pop June's oyster house.

In 1831, the first steam mill in the state was erected at Indianapolis. At that time there were no safety zones and the rural visitor could cross one of the streets on the bias if he wished to without being insulted by some big Irish policeman.

The highways of that day were more picturesque than serviceable. It is said that on the site of the old trails leading to Indianapolis, one can hardly dig a well without going

through two or three layers of Conestoga wagons and ox-bones. The Michigan Road was laid out in 1832 from Michigan City to Cincinnati, but that portion lying between Plymouth and Lakeville has never been completed. As late as 1848, a citizen of the state fell off of this road into the cat-tail swamp where Argos now



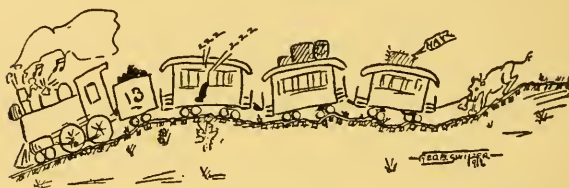
"The highways of that day were more picturesque than serviceable."

stands, and it was with difficulty that he was rescued from an untimely death. The road was originally laid out one hundred feet in width, but the enterprising farmers along the way have allowed their fences to gravitate toward the center in many instances, and the road isn't so wide any more.

One of the earlier enterprises of the state was the Wabash and Erie Canal. This was designed to connect the waters of Lake Erie with those of the Mississippi while branches were to run to Indianapolis and other points forming a net-work of water-ways over the state. The advent of the railroad in the later forties spoiled this plan and the completed parts of the canal are now used as feeding

grounds for bull-heads and big, warty, green frogs. In connection with the Wabash and Erie Canal, profanity was introduced into the state.

The first railway in Indiana was built from Madison to Indianapolis. It took eight years to complete this road. The road-bed seems to have been built on a sort of perpendicular scallop style. The rolling stock is said to have been repainted at one time since the road was



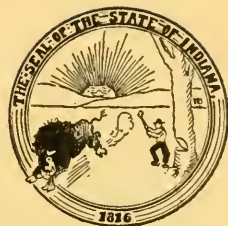
"Built on a sort of perpendicular scallop style."

completed, some new ties have been installed and the wooden rails with iron straps have been replaced by metal rails. One trip from the Capital City to Madison over this road is equal to a month's treatment with a modern chiropractor.

Manufacturing has made great strides in Indiana during the century just past. From the early inhabitant sitting astride his shaving horse and turning out clapboards and ax-handles, we have grown to wonderful proportions as a manufacturing people. The cotton mills at Madison, tin-plate mills at Elwood, steel mills at Gary and Indiana Harbor, vehicle factories at Auburn, South Bend, Kokomo, Indianapolis and other cities, are only a small part of our manufacturing industries. There are almost numberless factories making imple-

ments, fabrics, food products, fixtures and novelties of every kind and description in every part of the commonwealth.

The State Seal of Indiana consists of a rough-looking citizen chopping down a slippery elm tree, while a mad buffalo, with eyes shut, head down and tail distended, is rushing by, evidently on his way, but knowing not whither he is drifting, while a very brilliant sun is just coming up or going down at the north end of the scene. It is suggestive of some Hoosier characteristic, but no one seems to know just what.



"It is suggestive of some Hoosier characteristic."

Politics is one of the main industries of the state. Andrew Jackson always carried Indiana, but he doesn't get any votes any more since the Spanish American War. Formerly when a man wanted to run for office, he merely announced himself as a candidate and made a campaign to suit himself. His campaign speeches were often made from nearby stumps, from whence came the name, "Stump Speaker." The average man no longer runs for office in that way. Those who do, don't get very far. The candidate for office, today, must be named as a candidate of some particular party and all members of that party are in duty bound to vote for him under the pains and penalties of treason. We select road and pike superintendents, not because of any knowledge on their parts as to the construction or repair of highways, but because they are faithful servants of the dominant political party. A citizen may be unable to read or write the English language intelligently, but if he can distinguish a picture of a rooster from that of an eagle, or that of an eagle from some other similar em-



"From whence came the name Stump Speaker."

blem, and if he is loyal with a big L,—that is if he votes the ticket of his chosen party, regularly, continuously, unreservedly, completely, and without the least equivocation or mental reservation,—he is eligible, in Indiana, to any office of public trust or private snap, from Governor to school director or street sweeper. Sometimes, under this system we get the situation a trifle confused and put a strong, healthy, bull-necked man, who would make a splendid sweeper of the streets, into the State House, while we compel the weazened, little chap, whose brain development has out-run his physical growth, to work on the streets, where he is helpless except in the matter of raising a dust.

Indiana took a prominent part in the Mexican War of the Forties, however, much she tried to forget it later. It seems that some one reported that an Indiana regiment at the Battle of Buena Vista felt that the expression, "There he goes," was a much happier one than, "Doesn't he look natural?" All good loyal Hoosiers have since found out that the report was a vile slander, and since it happened so long ago and since none of our folks were present, let's let it go at that.

In 1850, the restless people of Indiana decided that the state constitution needed revising. The constitution at that time had been in use only thirty-four years and wasn't a bit frayed around the edges. Besides, it had sticking to it all the sacred memories of a scrubby elm tree, and the wisdom of a lot of infallible and immaculate forefathers. But the people were obdurate. Addison Harris and Charles Sefrit were not then engaged in saving the mob

from itself and its follies, and the constitution was revised by framing a new one. This instrument was made perfect and to fit the exigencies of all coming ages.

The preamble to this constitution is as follows:—"We declare that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; that all power is inherent in the people; that all free governments are, and of right ought to be, founded on their authority, and instituted for their peace, safety and well-being. For the advancement of these ends, the people have, at all times, an indefeasible right to alter and reform their government."

By "men" and "people" this preamble means, of course, "learned men" and "leading people"—folks like the author of this work and Charles Warren Fairbanks and Steve Fleming, and not the common herd that is always trying something detrimental to its own interests.

A wise provision of the constitution is that all lawyers must be persons of good moral character. It would indeed be a calamity if we allowed persons to practice law in the courts when such persons were dishonest or immoral in some particulars. It is consoling to the people to know that they are able to trust their lawyers implicitly and that they are thus safe-guarded by the fundamental law of the commonwealth. Another provision of this constitution that we should all be grateful for, is that found in Article 10, Section 1, in regard to securing a just valuation for the taxing of all property. What a sad commentary it

would be on our republican form of government, if some wicked men might escape a full and just valuation of any part of their taxable property. As it is, we can rest assured that every man pays his equitable share of the burdens of state.

When this constitution was framed, there were no street or interurban railways in Indiana; there was only one steam railroad in the state; there were no electric or gas light companies and no telephone companies. None of the great industries were even heard of at that time. The population was engaged almost wholly in rural pursuits. But in the minds of our great men, that condition seemed to make no difference in the capacity the framers had for meeting every possible contingency, and no difference in the perfection of the instrument they created. These wise men of Indiana now proclaim that the constitutional fathers of the Fifties were able to make provision for every contingency, and those wicked gentlemen who think we have out-grown the constitution adopted sixty-four years ago, should hike them hence at once and learn wisdom at the feet of the officers of the State Brewers' Association and the eminent persons named elsewhere in this connection.

When the terrible Civil War began, and President Lincoln called for troops, thousands of Indiana's brave and patriotic citizens hurried to the front or to Canada. Oliver P. Morton was the war governor of the state. He had whiskers but did not part them in the middle or trim them down to the shape of a half cooanut. He was an energetic advocate of the cause of the North and did more work in its be-

half, considering the resources at his command, than any other of the famous war governors.

There were more privates than generals among the Indiana soldiers, and there were very few engagements fought during the war that did not find Hoosiers in the ranks.

General Morgan's famous raid into the North extended into Indiana. Morgan and his men crossed the Ohio River at Mauckport and marched northward through Corydon plundering stores and farms as he traveled. When he reached Palmyra, a small hamlet in the northern part of Harrison County, the yeomanry of that region had gathered to obstruct his passage. The embattled farmers were armed with shot guns, pistols, pitch-forks, crow-bars, hand-spikes and other formidable weapons of warfare. Morgan and his troopers got away and marched to Salem in Washington County, where a cannon was planted in the streets, and the raider taking alarm, fled to the east through Jennings, Ripley and other counties into Ohio, where he was finally captured by the Federals. Another smaller raid by guerilla bands was made into Spencer and Warrick Counties earlier in the war but slight damage was done. Outside of these two invasions, Indiana was free from Southern troops during the struggle.

The white population of Indiana in 1800 was shown by the census to be 2517. There were nearly ten times that number in 1810. Since then there has been a gradual increase in inhabitants until today we are stretching toward the three million mark. Probably no state has a greater diversity of people than has Indiana. The first white settlers were French and many

of the early French names are yet to be found in the older communities. After the Revolutionary, the southern tier of counties began to fill up with emigrants from Kentucky, Virginia and the Carolinas. Later, came the Quakers and other eastern state men to the Whitewater region. A large influx of Pennsylvania Germans moved first into Ohio and later into northern and central Indiana. The state also received its share of the Revolutionists of 1848, and the persecuted refugees from Ireland. During the past forty years, the Scandinavians of the north and the South-of-Europe hordes have moved in great numbers to the more populous centers of the state, until today there is scarcely a race of people that is not to be found within the borders of Indiana.

Many residents of Indiana fail to appreciate the varied resources she possesses. Her soil is the very best, and every product of the Temperate Zone is likely to be found growing here. But the agricultural possibilities are not, by any means, all she has in the way of natural resources. In the southwestern portion are great coal deposits. In the central and eastern parts are oil wells, and there, a few years ago, Indiana's Natural Gas Belt was the wonder of the age. In the later eighties and the early nineties, the exuberant Hoosiers of Hamilton, Tipton, Howard, Madison, Delaware and other central Indiana counties thought they had an inexhaustible supply of fuel and light in the gas wells of that region. Flambeaus burned on every corner and the people revelled in a carnival of flame that would never end.

But it did end.

Old Mother Earth differed from some of our leading citizens. Her supply of gas could be estimated in cubic feet, and the time came when the flow showed signs of decrease. Then the pressure weakened perceptibly. It dwindled down to a mere shadow and was practically gone. Of course, the iron go-devil occasionally soars skyward in fragments even yet as the oil and gas wells are shot, but most of the promoters and investors and dream-millionaires have shot their wads, and we must either manufacture the gas we use or have it pumped through our meters by Geist and his minions, or have it thrust upon us during the Chautauqua seasons and the biennial political battles.

Indiana's stone quarries are unsurpassed. The Oolitic stone deposits extend from Greencastle, the home of Honorable Jackson Boyd, to Salem, a distance of nearly one hundred miles, with a width of from three to ten miles. Blue limestone is to be found in southeastern Indiana in abundance, while the southwestern part of the state is rich in brown, buff and gray sandstone. Whetstones are made from the Orange County quarries and the politicians usually go there at the beginning of each campaign to whet up. This county is also the home of Pluto Water which is used by all the best families.

Some iron deposits are to be found in various parts of the state, but it has not been found profitable to work them. It is easier to work the inhabitants.

Small quantities of drift gold have been found in Brown, Morgan and other nearby counties, but most of the Indiana gold has been carried

away by promoters of mines at the mouth of the Columbia River and in Central America.

The Judicial system of Indiana consists of a Supreme Court composed of five judges, an Appellate Court of six judges, sixty-seven Circuit Courts each presided over by one judge, justice courts in each township, city courts in each organized city, a number of Superior Courts established by special act of the legislature and one or two criminal courts in the larger counties.

Justice courts are provided for by the constitution and are limited in their jurisdiction. A justice court is usually presided over by some retired farmer or shop-keeper who knows no law and runs his court without fear of God, man or legal precedent. If a litigant is displeased with the decision of a justice court, he may file a bond within thirty days and appeal to a Circuit or Superior Court, where in the course of a year or two, it is tried again,—this time by a court generally learned in the law.

The Circuit and Superior Courts are concurrent in jurisdiction in most matters, the Superior Court being merely a supplemental court established by the legislature in counties where the work of the Circuit Court is too heavy. Nearly all important litigation passes through one or the other of these courts. Appeals may be taken from these courts to the Supreme and Appellate Courts. The Appellate Court is a sort of supplemental adjunct of the Supreme Court and was established to relieve the Supreme Court of part of its work.

Neither the Supreme or Appellate Court tries cases in the sense that evidence is heard.

They are courts of review and merely deal with the errors of the lower courts and review their decisions.

City Courts are courts of inferior jurisdiction and generally of an inferior quality of legal timber. They are usually of the "hit and miss" variety of performance and are presided over by persons who have been admitted to the bar and take that for granted as being sufficient to make them lawyers.

The Judges of our Circuit, Superior and higher courts are usually lawyers of high grade and but little scandal has ever been connected with the judiciary of the state.

For a number of years our people have been discussing "The law's delays." It is generally understood that the process of litigation is slow, wearisome and oppressive in many ways. This however, is not so much the fault of the courts as it is the fault of the system. The practice act of Indiana could be made more simple and expeditious without impairing its efficiency, but as a rule, our legislators are too busy passing fishing laws and game laws and ferret bills and inspection bills and other crazy creations of back-woods statesmen, to pay much attention to the simplification of our practice act.

In an early day, it was the custom to send the biggest, brainiest men of the community to the General Assembly. Such men as Robert Dale Owen, Judge Isaac Blackford, Jesse Bright and Oliver H. Smith were in turn, members. This practice of careful selection for legislative timber was in vogue in Indiana, as late as the Civil War. In the last few years, however, the main qualification of a legislator seems to depend upon his attitude on the liquor ques-

tion. If he is "safe" in this particular, he can easily be depended upon to vote "right" upon every other question involving any of the predatory interests.

The pay of a member of the General Assembly is six dollars per day and mileage. Statesmen and patriots are loath to come forward at that price unless there are other emoluments of office in sight. So, sometimes, it is a scrubby-looking lot that goes up to the Capital building to make our laws. Not many Harrisons or Turpies or McDonalds or Mortons or Hendrickses sit in our legislatures now-a-days.

At a recent session of the General Assembly of Indiana, an allowance of Ten Dollars a day was made to a colored porter out of the state treasury, while the statesmen, whose coats and hats and shoes he brushed and cared for, and who paid him tip-money in addition, received only six dollars a day. All this goes to show that a good porter is a more valuable asset to the state than a statesman.

Our legislatures have been very productive of laws of varied character and description. It takes a pretty good lawyer to keep up with all the freak changes. One has to be on the alert to know whether he can keep out of jail and at the same time hunt rabbits with a ferret, or whether he can sell a horse with a ring-bone or spavin without first publishing the fact in the local papers.

The constitution requires that before a bill shall become a law it must be passed by a majority of both houses of the General Assembly and signed by the Governor of the State, or in case of his veto, to be passed by a two-thirds

vote of each house, but the legislature referred to above, improved upon the constitutional idea and dispensed in some cases with the formality of passing the laws at all. They were merely placed upon the statute books. It may be that in time we can even improve upon that plan. The legislators might have their pet



"Whether he can sell a horse with a ring bone or spavin without first publishing the fact."

measures all ready for introduction the first day of the session and drop them into a hopper. Then the clerks and door-keepers and pages and porters might keep open house up at the Capitol for the amusement of the public and telephonic communication might be had between the poker rooms at the hotels in case an emerg-

ency arose. Every time a statesman held an ace-full or better, he could be allowed to go up to the assembly hall and address the galleries on the state of the country. At the end of the sixty day session, the party leaders could prepare the needed changes in laws for the printer, after which, each statesman could gather up his share of the stationary, books and other perquisites and go on his way home. This, of course, is only a suggestion and may not meet the ideas of those in power and a better and less irksome plan may be adopted later.

Indiana established a system of free schools at the time the present state constitution was adopted. In 1848, a vote was taken at the general election on the question, and 78,523 votes were cast for free schools and 61,887 against them. At that time, a great proportion of the population could not read or write. Since that time, great strides have been made in educational matters and very few of Indiana's inhabitants are now without at least a common school education, while thousands of college-bred men and women are engaged in various pursuits over the state. There are also a number of men, like the author of this work, who are possessed of a superior education and whose fund of knowledge is practically inexhaustible, thus placing Indiana in a high rank in educational matters.

It has been said that every man in Indiana is a politician. It isn't true. The author of this standard history knows. He once took it for granted that the statement was true and that he was included among the politicians. The things that were done to him were too various and extended for the space at his command here. He isn't a politician. There are

a few politicians in Indiana and a lot of individuals that might be designated by the scientific name of "dubs." The great majority of the voters of this state merely look for the emblem of a rooster or an eagle on election day and vote a ticket usually framed up under some back stairway or in some private office by a little coterie of real politicians.

The most despised individual in the state is the voter who becomes nauseated with the performances of his party organization, falls off the band wagon and heads for the woods. As he goes streaking for the tall timber, every little tad-pole follower of the big noise wriggles off in the opposite direction, and the outlaw is told that his performance "won't git him nothin'." Not one voter in twenty has anything to do with framing party platforms or selecting party tickets, but the beautiful thing about it all is that he never suspects the truth. After he has marched in the glare of the Roman candles and Greek fire and howled himself hoarse a few times, and has served faithfully as challenger at the polls and has addressed the assembled multitudes at Podunk School House on the virtues of his party, he is all the happier for not knowing that he is merely a button on the key-board, and not a politician at all.

Probably no other state in the Union has furnished so many literary characters in the same length of time as has Indiana. In a work published sixteen years ago, poems were given from one hundred forty-six Indiana authors. All of these poems possess literary merit, and a number of the authors have attained nationwide celebrity. The writers of prose far outnumber the poets in this state.

It is not possible in this brief volume to enumerate all of Indiana's writers or discuss the merits of their productions, but a glance at a few of the best known will not be out of place.

Edward Eggleston has been called the "First of the Hoosiers," and certainly his pictures of early Indiana life in "The Hoosier School Master" and "The Circuit Rider," did as much as anything else to awaken an interest in Indiana writings and Indiana writers. Some of the dialect used in these books has been criticised as not true to the life of the early Hoosiers, but any one who lived in a backwoods settlement in Indiana, only fifty years ago, would recognize the jargon of Miranda Means and Bud and the rest of them as the language of some of their nearest neighbors. Eggleston's books were as fairly true pictures of early Indiana people as were the scenes from the "Gentleman from Indiana" pictures of another phase of Indiana life in another day. Booth Tarkington, the writer became famous merely because he made Hoosier life interesting and yet depicted scenes founded upon fact.

Among Indiana writers, probably General Lew Wallace is the best known. His "Ben Hur" has been read around the world. John Clark Ridpath's historical works are to be found in almost every library. James Whitcomb Riley, the erstwhile sign-writer, became famous with his quaint verses, and "The Old Swimmin' Hole," "Old Aunt Mary's" and "When the Frost is on the Punkin and the Fodder's in the Shock" have delighted thousands of readers who never saw Indiana. These are only a few of the famous Hoosier writers. Who has not read George Barr McCutcheon's

"Graustark" or laughed over John McCutcheon's cartoons? Where is the boy, girl, man or woman who does not enjoy George Ade's "Fables in Slang" or Kin Hubbard's foolish philosophy? The names of Nicholson, Thompson, Dillon, Jordan, Sarah Bolton, Will Carleton and a large number of others are known the country over as famous Indiana writers. If it were not for the extreme modesty of the writer of this sketch,—but, Oh! what's the use? It's time to quit anyway.

They're Coming Home.



From the West.



From the East.

From Poseyville to Polingtown
 From Rising Sun to Gary,
 The folks are hustling up and down
 For our first Centenary.
 From far and near, where'er men roam,
 The Hoosier Folk are coming home.

They're gathering in at Evansville;
 They've captured Old Ft. Wayne;
 They'll celebrate at Bunker Hill,
 And Muncie will raise Cain.

From all the lands both far and near,
The Hoosier folk are gathering here.

And every county in the state
Has donned its Sunday coat,
The Century to celebrate,
From Berne to Terre Haute;
And railway business is not slack,
For Hoosier folk are coming back.

A hundred years we've been a state,
And, My! How we have grown.
'Tis fitting that we celebrate,
And bring back to their own
The errant folk who've strayed away.
So welcome, Hoosiers, come and stay.

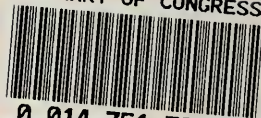
Great as has been Indiana's progress during the century of statehood, the indications are that she is just entering upon her real career of progress. Situated far enough from the sea-board to be free from the weakening influence of the older east, with a land rich in almost every natural advantage and a people just ready to ripen into a real intelligent democracy of thought and action, no state has brighter prospects of the future. What the next hundred years will bring forth would be as much of a revelation to us if we could live to see it as the present would be to the forefathers of 1816, could they see us now.

In this, the one hundredth year of Indiana's statehood, fitting celebrations are being held in all parts of the state. Freckled-faced little girls by the thousands and boys with stone-bruised heels everywhere, are learning pieces to speak and practicing Centennial odes written by the local doggerel writers in each community. The Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, whose great, grandfathers ran tanneries at Bridgeport, Connecticut during that war, are busily engaged in forming committees and

drilling imitation Indians for pageants and plays. The local Demosthenes is addressing immense audiences of from twelve to twenty-five in each section of his county, on the importance of observing this centennial, and the marvellous feats of Indiana's citizens in war and peace. There will be patriotism and red fire and rejoicing all over the land before the robins fly away and cold winter comes apace.

Every true Hoosier should take part and get his name in the papers at least once before the show is over. We will now sing the doxology and be dismissed.

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